Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of determining resource placement, comprising:

determining ~~a set of business objectives~~ plurality of assessment criteria for assessing each of a plurality of candidate locations for ~~resource placement~~ placing resources for a product;

~~developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;~~

~~performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives, thereby determining what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;~~

~~developing cost factors for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;~~

creating a product profile for the product, the product profile comprising an importance value assigned to each of a first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of a second plurality of the assessment criteria, the first plurality pertaining to local skills for the product and the second plurality pertaining to a marketplace of the product;

creating a geography profile for each of the candidate locations, each geography profile comprising a score assigned to each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, each score in each of the geography profiles assigned to indicate how well the candidate location meets the assessment criterion to which the score is assigned;

using computer-readable program code executed by a computer to programmatically compute a skills gap score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

computing a plurality of skills gap values for the candidate location by subtracting, for each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria, the score assigned to the assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location from the importance value assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile; and

summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed skills gap values to yield the skills gap score for the candidate location;

using computer-readable program code executed by the computer to programmatically compute an opportunity gap score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

computing a plurality of opportunity gap values for the candidate location by subtracting, for each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, the importance value assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile from the score assigned to the assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location; and

summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed opportunity gap values to yield the opportunity gap score for the candidate location; and

~~using computer-readable program code executed by a computer to programmatically compute a value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations using the business objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors, further comprising:~~

~~determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;~~

~~determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets the second plurality of business objectives;~~

~~using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and~~

~~for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location;~~

using computer-readable program code executed by the computer to programmatically select a particular location from among the candidate locations for placing the resources, based on the programmatically-computed ~~value for placing the resources in~~ skills gap score for each of the candidate locations and the programmatically-computed opportunity gap score for each of the candidate locations[[;]], ~~and~~

~~assigning the determined resources to the programmatically-selected particular location.~~

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the ~~assigned~~ resources are information technology personnel.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the ~~assigned~~ resources comprise monetary investments in the particular location.

Claims 22 - 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): A system for assigning resources, comprising:

a computer comprising a processor and a memory;

a plurality of assessment criteria, stored in the memory, ~~set of business objectives~~ for assessing each of a plurality of candidate locations for ~~resource placement~~ placing resources for a product;

~~one or more objective measurements for each business objective;~~

~~results of value chain analyses performed related to the set of business objectives, the results usable for determining what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;~~

~~cost factors for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;~~

a product profile for the product, the product profile stored in the memory and comprising an importance value assigned to each of a first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of a second plurality of the assessment criteria, the first plurality pertaining to local skills for the product and the second plurality pertaining to a marketplace of the product;

a geography profile for each of the candidate locations, each geography profile stored in the memory and comprising a score assigned to each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, each score in each of the geography profiles assigned to indicate how well the candidate location meets the assessment criterion to which the score is assigned; and

instructions which are executable on the computer, using the processor, to implement functions comprising:

programmatically computing a skills gap score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

computing a plurality of skills gap values for the candidate location by

subtracting, for each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria, the score assigned to the assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location from the importance value assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile; and

summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed skills gap values to yield the skills gap score for the candidate location;

programmatically computing an opportunity gap score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

computing a plurality of opportunity gap values for the candidate location by subtracting, for each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, the importance value assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile from the score assigned to the assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location; and

summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed opportunity gap values to yield the opportunity gap score for the candidate location; and

~~programmatically computing a value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations using the business objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors, further comprising:~~

~~determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;~~

~~determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets the second plurality of business objectives;~~

~~using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance~~

~~values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations, and~~

~~for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location; and~~

~~using the programmatically-computed value to~~ programmatically selecting ~~select a~~ particular location from among the candidate locations for placing the resources, based on the programmatically-computed skills gap score for each of the candidate locations and the programmatically-computed opportunity gap score for ~~value for placing the resources in~~ each of the candidate locations~~, thereby enabling assignment of the determined resources for placement in the programmatically-selected particular location~~.

Claims 29 - 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein programmatically selecting a particular location further comprises selecting the candidate location for which a cost of placing the resources in the candidate location is lowest.

Claim 34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 28, wherein programmatically selecting a particular location further comprises selecting the candidate location for which a cost of placing the resources in the candidate location is lowest.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A computer program product for determining resource placement, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-usable storage media and comprising computer-usable program code for:

retrieving a plurality of assessment criteria ~~programmatically computing a value for placing resources in each of a plurality of candidate locations using a set of business objectives~~ for assessing each of [[the]] a plurality of candidate locations for ~~resource placement, according to one or more objective measurements developed for each business objective, and cost factors developed for costs of placing the resources in the candidate locations, the resources determined by performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives to identify what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain, further comprising:~~ placing resources for a product;

creating a product profile for the product, the product profile comprising an importance value assigned to each of a first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of a second plurality of the assessment criteria, the first plurality pertaining to local skills for the product and the second plurality pertaining to a marketplace of the product;

creating a geography profile for each of the candidate locations, each geography profile comprising a score assigned to each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, each score in each of the geography profiles assigned to indicate how well the candidate location meets the assessment criterion to which the score is assigned;

programmatically computing a skills gap score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

computing a plurality of skills gap values for the candidate location by subtracting, for each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria, the score assigned to the assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location from the importance value assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile; and

summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed skills gap values to yield the skills gap score for the candidate location;

programmatically computing an opportunity gap score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

computing a plurality of opportunity gap values for the candidate location by subtracting, for each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, the importance value assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile from the score assigned to the assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location; and

summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed opportunity gap values to yield the opportunity gap score for the candidate location; and

~~determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;~~

~~determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets the second plurality of business objectives;~~

~~using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and~~

~~for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location; and~~

programmatically selecting a particular location from among the candidate locations for placing the resources, based on the programmatically-computed skills gap score for each of the candidate locations and the programmatically-computed opportunity gap score for ~~value for placing the resources in~~ each of the candidate locations~~, for assigning the determined resources~~.

Claim 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (previously presented): The computer program product according to Claim 36, wherein programmatically selecting a particular location further comprises selecting the candidate location for which a cost of placing the resources in the candidate location is lowest.

Claim 39 (new): The method according to Claim 18, further comprising placing the resources in the programmatically-selected particular location.